

‘We won’t comply’ with Arizona law

Resistance erupts

against racist SB1070

By Paul Teitelbaum
Tucson, Ariz.

On July 29 the racist, anti-immigrant law SB1070 went into effect in Arizona. On July 28, federal judge Susan Bolton temporarily blocked the worst parts of the law from being implemented. Nonetheless, July 29 was a day filled with nonstop protests and bold actions as people took to the streets to show their outrage at this bigoted attack against immigrants and workers.

In the early morning, southbound traffic on Interstate Highway 19, the main road that connects Arizona to Mexico, was shut down by activists who stretched a blockade of tires covered with tar and broken glass across the roadway.

The group of activists, calling themselves Freedom for Arizona, placed a banner reading, “Stop All Militarization! The Border Is Illegal!” across the highway and issued a statement via e-mail that read in part, “We want an end to the militarization of indigenous land, ICE raids, deportations, the attacks on ethnic studies, violence against women and queer people, the expansion of prisons and immigration detention centers, empire, the border wall and the genocide at the Arizona-Sonora border that has claimed the lives of over 153 people during the first 8 months of this fiscal year alone.”

The statement continued, “Today we interrupt the flow of Arizona’s traffic to bring attention to the following points: Abolish all of sb1070 and other anti-migrant laws, Stop all militarization, No National Guard troops on indigenous land, Borders and the Arizona government are illegitimate, No human being is illegal — the economic system is to blame, We want respect and justice for all people.”(www.panleft.net)

On the evening of July 28, activists in downtown Phoenix scaled a 20-story construction crane to unfurl a huge banner condemning both SB1070 and the 287(g) program, which allows local police to enforce immigration law. This action tied up traffic in downtown Phoenix for over two hours. Shortly after this action, another group chained themselves to the main entrance of the Maricopa County 4th Avenue Jail, blocking access in and out of the facility. This is the location where Nazi-like Sheriff Joe Arpaio dispatches his deputies on their so-called “crime sweeps,” which are really racist roundups of people of color. Arpaio had bragged that he would carry out sweeps on July 29, saying that not even a federal judge could stop him, referring to the injunction issued against some portions of SB1070. But, having his jail blocked by activists forced him to change his plans and cancel his scheduled raid.

Disruptions of this type continued throughout the day in both Tucson and Phoenix, with activists dropping banners in strategic locations, occupying intersections and challenging police. Dozens of activists in both cities were arrested for their actions against SB1070. In

Continued on page 7



RUTHLESS CAPITALIST ‘RECOVERY’ Profits up with fewer jobs	REMEMBERING PEOPLE’S HEROES ■ Carl Hampton ■ Jonathan Jackson ■ Lolita Lebron	WOMEN’S CLINIC STAYS OPEN Pro-choice victory
5	3 4 11	2
		FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY Justice for James Rivera, Katrina victims
		3



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CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Pro-choice advocates drive right-wingers away from clinic

Pro-choice activists successfully defended the Family Reproductive Health clinic for a week in July in Charlotte, N.C. The facility, which provides a wide range of medical care for women, including check-ups, testing and treatment, family planning and abortions, has been under siege for eight years by the right-wing Operation Rescue/Operation Save America.

OR/OAS not only opposes women’s reproductive rights but rails against lesbian/gay/bi/transgender individuals and people living with AIDS. Their bigotry has extended to protests outside of mosques where they harass Muslims.

On July 24 the strength of pro-choice activists caused the right-wingers to pack up their bus and leave. The National Organization for Women, which helped to organize the clinic defense, reports that this was the first Saturday in eight years when the clinic was “free of harassment and terror threats from the extreme anti-abortion rights group OR/OSA.” (now.org)

Following is an eyewitness report written by Cathey Stanley and Scott Williams, activists with Raleigh Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST), who traveled to Charlotte to defend the clinic and women’s reproductive rights on July 24.

“Trust women,” “Keep abortion safe and legal,” and “This clinic stays open” were among the signs we saw bordering the entrance of the Family Reproductive Health clinic on July 24. The facility is one of many in Charlotte that have been under attack.

Operation Rescue/Operation Save America had targeted Family Reproductive Health for attacks from July 17-24 and culminated its weeklong convention in Charlotte on July 24. For the entire week, these right-wingers, who aim to end abortion rights for women across the United States, harassed clinic staff and the women who depend on that facility.

In anticipation of their arrival, 80 advocates for women’s reproductive rights gathered in solidarity at Family Reproductive Health on July 24 to support the patients and clinic workers.

Members of groups, including the Feminist Majority Foundation, the National Organization for Women, Raleigh FIST and University of North Carolina-Charlotte Students for a Democratic Society, were there. Many of the groups also helped defend the clinic throughout the week.

Reporting from Charlotte, Cathey Stanley said she traveled to support this clinic because “Women’s reproductive rights are an indication of where we stand in society. The right to choose indicates that we are adults who are fully capable of making decisions about our bodies and lives. Taking that choice away suggests that we are like children, incapable of making such decisions about what is best for our own lives. Taking away reproductive rights takes away our autonomy as fully functional human beings.”

Mary Johnson, who lives in Charlotte, explained to these reporters that she was there because “I had a friend who didn’t believe in abortion and she had one. I’m out here so that every woman has the right to choose like her. For her, the baby wouldn’t live after birth, so I thought that it was important that she should have the right to choose. So now I’m here to defend every woman’s right to an abortion. In the past few decades, North Carolina went from having some of the most pro-woman abortion laws to limiting abortion services for women, especially minors.”

These reporters also spoke to Francisco Chavez from Mexico, who is a member of UNC-Charlotte SDS and Feminist Union at UNCC. He expressed his solidarity with women activists and said, “We need total equality through awareness, education and action with men and women. In a men-dominated society, women’s issues are connected to all issues of oppression. It’s very scary that people are so against reproductive rights. These people are attacking women seeking medical services and only contributing to the oppression of women.”

We saw that morale was high among clinic supporters as a steady crowd of people remained at Family Reproductive Health from early morning to late afternoon. We noted that although pro-choice activists had signed agreements of “non-engagement” and “non-violence,” they were ready to stand their ground if there was opposition from the right-wingers. Although we saw a few individuals walk through the pro-choice crowd or stand on the sidewalk opposite the clinic holding signs or spewing anti-choice rhetoric, the women’s rights activists far outnumbered them.

As they defended the clinic with their bodies and their signs, the pro-choice advocates spoke with one another, made contacts for future events and shared their own stories of how they came to fight for reproductive justice. The pro-choice protest at Family Reproductive Health was a successful event that fostered an environment of solidarity and continued action to promote women’s reproductive rights. □

WORKERS WORLD this week...

★ In the U.S.

Resistance erupts against racist SB 1070 1

Pro-choice advocates drive right-wingers away from clinic .. 2

Justice for James Rivera!..... 3

Killer cops indicted for post-Katrina fatal shootings 3

Martyred Houston Panther leader honored 3

Struggle of people with disabilities continues..... 4

Long live the spirit of Jonathan Jackson..... 4

Profits soar as bosses cut workers..... 5

LGBTQ migrant workers, Lady Gaga & Arizona boycott 6

Houston support for DREAM activists..... 6

Protests coast to coast slam SB 1070 7

Build a united, independent movement 8

Mumia on Selling out Shirley Sherrod..... 8

★ Around the world

Interview with Iraqi author Haifa Zangana, part 3 9

Koreans in U.S. call for peace treaty 9

Int’l Court opens door to dismember Serbia 9

Socialist Cuba stands tall 10

‘U.S. out of the Philippines!’ 10

Washington tries to pit Colombia against Venezuela 11

Lolita Lebrón..... 11

Gerardo Hernández tortured by U.S. govt 11

★ Editorials

‘Ethics’ violations: What about Bush & Cheney?..... 10

★ Noticias En Español

SB 1070 y ‘Comunidades Seguras’ 12

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Police kill unarmed Black youth

Justice for James Rivera!

By Larry Hales

James Rivera would have been 17 years old on July 23, and the community barbecue and potluck held that day should have been in celebration of his young life. Instead, it was a gathering to mourn the young man, who was gunned down by Stockton, Calif., police in the late morning of July 22, and to strategize to win justice against this latest police killing of a young person of color in California.

According to official reports from various news sources in California, cops began pursuing Rivera at around 10:30 a.m. on July 22, alleging that the vehicle he was driving had been stolen in a carjacking the day prior. The family says that Rivera had bought the minivan.

The family also says that cops visited their home early that morning with guns drawn demanding to know Rivera's whereabouts. Family members say that cops threatened to kill him and said that they would be attending his funeral — this after pointing their weapons at an 11-year-old boy in the home.

It is claimed that Rivera was pulled over later that same morning and released, and that cops began pursuit following the release.

The pursuit led to a high-speed chase into a north Stockton neighborhood, where Rivera's van crashed into a fence and was rammed by a cop car. The van was wedged into the garage of a triplex home.

Cesar Prakash, a friend of Rivera who witnessed the shooting, said, "[Rivera] hit the mailbox and garage. They said, 'Get out, get out,' and then just shot him. I saw [a] dude empty his 9-millimeter. They didn't have to do all that. He was already subsided." (The (Stockton) Record, July 24)

Many witnesses were outraged at the shooting and stated that cops didn't give the young man time to get out of the vehicle.

The cops involved — Officers Eric Azarvand and Gregory Dunn, and Sheriff's Deputy John Thomas Nesbitt — reported fearing for their lives because the vehicle was revving up and reversing, though no witnesses reported seeing the vehicle reversing. Footage of the accident shows the van thoroughly wedged into the garage.

However, ScanStockton.com, a website that reports on police, fire and emergency scanners and by all appearances appears to be pro-cop, says that the cops called out, "Shots fired. ... We have shots fired."

Between the police traffic on the scanner and the official reports of the van going in reverse, both of which events witnesses claim didn't happen, it would seem that the police made up their mind to use deadly force.

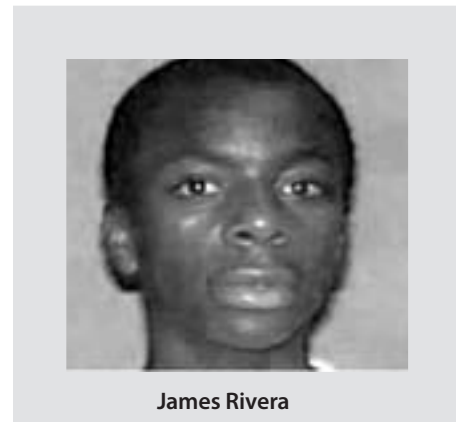
Many there at the time of the shooting report having heard at least 30 shots fired, all coming from the cops. In fact, Rivera was unarmed and no weapon was found in the van or anywhere on the scene.

Charles Moore, who lives in the triplex with his girlfriend and their four children said, "All my kids could have been shot. All my kids' lives were in jeopardy." (The Record, July 24)

Ricardo Reyes, who also lives in the triplex with his partner and their children, said, "Was that van really worth that boy's life?" Reyes' partner, Tina Sherrill, said of the cops, "Now we fear them." (The Record, July 28)

According to witnesses, the cops pulled the young man from the van, slapped him on the face and left his body on the ground. They report that the ambulance arrived and left without any sense of urgency, not bothering to use the sirens.

The family and community are outraged at this latest incident, claiming it is another



James Rivera

unjust killing of a young person of color. The barbecue was just the beginning of a long organizing campaign. On July 27, 100 people showed up to protest inside and outside of a city council hearing.

Rivera's aunt, Carmen Smith, told The Record, "The same day we were planning his birthday, we found out we got to get ready for a funeral. We need justice. Something is empty in our heart, and it's never going to be full." (July 28)

Joe Pinasco also showed up at the city council hearing in support of Rivera's family. His son, Joey Pinasco, was killed with six shots to the head by California Highway Patrol officers.

All the families of police brutality victims, the survivors themselves, community members, activists, progressives and militants stand with the family in this long fight for justice and an end to a brutal system that destroys so many lives, especially of young people who were denied a chance to develop into adulthood. □

Killer cops indicted for post-Katrina fatal shootings

By Dolores Cox

Imagine losing everything you've ever owned, including your personal documents, your most valuable and cherished possessions. In addition, there is suffering the personal loss through death, disappearance or displacement of family, loved ones and friends. This was the plight of most survivors of 2005 Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the ensuing flood from broken levees, especially in the Ninth Ward.

The majority of the victims were Black and poor citizens who were unable to evacuate the affected areas prior to the storm. Responses to their immediate cries for help were largely ignored by all levels of government. And the indifference and unnecessary delays in rescuing them resulted in prolonged suffering in the hurricane's aftermath.

To add insult to injury, the racist mainstream media depicted many of the survivors as "looters" and "wild criminals," instead of as victims, and initially referred to them as "refugees." Their trauma and devastating situation were overshadowed by this exaggerated, skewed reporting.

Right after the hurricane, some white New Orleans residents in their unaffected areas formed armed vigilante groups to prevent Black survivors from entering their neighborhoods via the Danziger Bridge. Some went hunting for "ns" and bragged about shooting them. Even the U.S. military prevented Black survivors from seeking refuge and shelter on abandoned government property. In addition, the U.S. government-contracted mercenary force Blackwater made its presence known in the area.

Armed racist white residents weren't alone in preventing Black survivors from seeking help and relief. In late 2008 an investigative journalist, A.C. Thompson, succeeded in getting published in the The Nation magazine results of his 18-month-long investigation of police shootings on the Danziger Bridge.

The journalist uncovered the Sept. 4, 2005, incidents where white cops shot in-

nocent, unarmed Black survivors who were seeking safe haven, food and water. Two Black men were killed and a family of four was wounded by the cops on the bridge.

The men killed were James Brisette, age 17, and Ronald Madison, who was severely mentally challenged. Both Brisette and Madison were unarmed. Former Officer Robert Faulcon shot Madison in the back as he tried to flee, and he was then kicked and stomped to death by Sgt. Kenneth Bowen.

The journalist's investigation also revealed the Sept. 2 killing of a Black man, Danny Brumfield, stranded with his family at the Convention Center. The man reportedly tried to flag down a cop car for help. But he was deliberately hit by the cop car and then shot in the back in front of many witnesses.

Another Black victim, Henry Glover, was taken hostage by police on Sept. 4, shot, then his body was either burned while he was still alive or burned after he died.

Following the release of the journalist's report, and under pressure by activists,

the U.S. Justice Department launched a civil rights investigation, which included visiting the crime scenes, interviewing witnesses and seizing police computers.

This July 14, as the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina approached, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced that four New Orleans police officers had been charged with "civil rights violations" in the Sept. 4 shootings. Sergeants Kenneth Bowen and Robert Gisevius, Officer Anthony Villavaso and former Officer Robert Faulcon were indicted on 27 counts for killing Madison and Brisette. A total of 11 cops have been charged with conspiring to cover up the shootings, and several have confessed to perjury. Six have been charged with false arrests.

Shortly after the shootings, then-police chief Warren Riley claimed in a press conference that the officers in question "approached the subjects who were several feet away, who fired on the police officers. The officers returned fire." (NY Amsterdam News, July 22). The Justice Department asserted that Riley's state-

ment and other lies were part of the police department's cover-up, which included falsifying police reports, manufacturing witnesses and planting a gun at the scene.

There were also many other reported incidents of police brutality in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The New Orleans Police Department has a history of corruption, violence and killings. And for three years after the murders, the city's district attorney, its federal attorney and local media ignored the killings until the 2008 report.

Hurricane Katrina survivors, five years later, are still fighting for the right to return home to New Orleans. The city, state, federal governments and private developers readily found money to rebuild the Superdome stadium, the French Quarter tourist area and other enterprises. But schools, medical facilities, day care and senior centers are still closed. Many small businesses have not been able to reopen. Adequate, affordable housing and homelessness are still a problem. And the rebuilding of the blighted Ninth Ward continues at a snail's pace. □

Martyred Houston Panther leader honored

By Gloria Rubac Houston

Carl B. Hampton, the leader of People's Party II in Houston, was assassinated by the Houston police 40 years ago on July 26. His life and legacy, however, are very much alive in the hearts and actions of those who worked with him, those who remember him and those who treasure his history but were not yet born when he was killed.

The Carl B. Hampton 40th Anniversary Memorial Committee organized five days of activities from July 22 to 26. These events brought together former leading Black Panther Party members from around the country, Houston activists who knew and worked with Hampton, and hundreds of people from all over this city who were eager to learn about Houston's

revolutionary African-American history.

In 1969, while in Oakland, Hampton discovered and was inspired by the BPP, and he decided to begin a chapter in Houston. Since the BPP was not then authorizing new chapters, he created People's Party II in recognition that the BPP was the "first People's Party." He began organizing in early 1970, but months after PPII opened, Houston police assassinated Hampton.

After Hampton's death, due to his great sacrifice, the BPP leadership granted chapter status to PPII and it became known as the Houston chapter of the Black Panther Party.

"Carl Hampton was only 21 when he was gunned down, but he was educated and wise beyond his years," said Charles "Boko" Freeman, who organized PPII with Hampton and was a leader of Hous-

ton's BPP chapter.

The 40th anniversary commemorations began with a Black Panther Party art exhibit with framed front pages of more than 50 newspapers illustrated by BPP Minister of Culture Emory Douglass; revolutionary art by Freeman; historical photography and posters. Douglass and former Panther Billy X Jennings gave an art presentation with more than 150 slides of revolutionary art that chronicled the BPP's history. Freeman had reproduced prints of his beautiful painting depicting Hampton's life, which were available to participants.

Playwright Parnell Herbert presented his new production of "The Angola 3," about three BPP members and political prisoners in Louisiana's Angola State Prison. The audience responded very en-

Continued on page 6

On 20th anniversary of ADA

Struggle of people with disabilities continues

By Cheryl LaBash

Although the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act was celebrated across the U.S. on July 26 with much publicity, in a corner of Detroit the practical struggle to implement it was quietly playing out in the struggle spirit that originally won the ADA.

A corporate-funded upgrade in a lovely, wooded, neighborhood park included a new entrance with five steps and no accessible ramp. When this violation and insensitivity were pointed out to the corporate representative, he callously replied that there was something wrong with the law if steps couldn't be constructed for people who can use them. Then he pointed out that grass and mud along the side street was nearly level so wheelchair users could enter there. As a concession, he offered to construct an asphalt path to the side street.

People with disabilities and their allies called the mayor, the corporate head and the Detroit Law and Human Rights departments pointing out the violation and the public hazard created by this corporation's "generosity." People with disabilities noted they would attend the planned media event lauding this "gift" to the city. Their message and the choice were clear: Wheelchair users could be smiling for the cameras or they could have signs pointing out the unfriendly steps. Nonetheless, the concrete for the steps was placed that day. But by 10 a.m. on July 27 the steps were gone!

The ADA, accessibility and univer-

sal design benefit everyone, making life easier for parents with strollers or toddlers, seniors and the 20 percent of U.S. residents who have a permanent or temporary disability. Persistent, militant and often dramatic actions led by people with disabilities overcame enormous social and institutional barriers and demanded the right to develop their fullest potential. Often these struggles came forward most forcefully during eras of U.S. political and class conflict. Today, the battle is not over.

Long history of struggle

In 1935 disabled workers, some who were survivors of polio, signed up for employment with the Works Progress Administration's massive public jobs program, but weren't referred for jobs. The letters PH printed on their work cards singled them out as disabled. The League of the Physically Handicapped staged a sit-in at the office of the Emergency Relief Bureau in New York City when the director refused to meet with them. The League is recognized as the first organized group of people with different types of disabilities led by people with disabilities. Through picket lines, demonstrations and addressing unions and other groups, LPH organized for economic and social justice.

In 1970 during another historical time of mass movements for liberation, equality and social justice as well as to end the U.S. imperialist war against Vietnam, Disabled in Action organized demonstrations against unfair hiring practices and used litigation to fight for disability rights. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 followed. This

is the first law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities.

Although laws often look good on paper, when implementation falls short, organizations of people with disabilities have responded to the challenges. On April 5, 1977, the takeover of the San Francisco Health, Education and Welfare offices forced then HEW Secretary Joseph Califano to sign needed regulations to implement Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act providing for reasonable accommodation. The sit-in lasted nearly a month and is claimed as the longest lasting sit-in at a federal building.

In October 1983 Americans Disabled for Access in Public Transit protested Denver's failure to provide wheelchair lifts on new city buses by blocking several Denver Regional Transit Authority buses with sit-ins. With low-floor buses now the standard, ADAPT has shifted its fight so people with disabilities can live in the community with real supports instead of being locked away in nursing homes and other institutions — a struggle now in direct conflict with state and federal budget cuts.

In 1988, deaf students at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., put their fight on the front pages when they blocked the school entranceways with signs, closing the school from March 6 to 13 demanding, "Deaf President Now!" Out of three final candidates for university president, the board of trustees had chosen the only one who was hearing and had little knowledge of the deaf or even sign language.

It was the last straw at this internationally renowned university for the deaf that had not had even one deaf president since 1864. For a week they protested, some camping on the university president's lawn. A sit-in was held at the Mayflower hotel where the board was meeting to discuss the presidency, and others held a protest march to Capitol Hill. They won all demands including no reprisals! (<http://www.aslinfo.com/gallaudet.cfm>)

On the eve of the passage of the ADA in 1990, ADAPT occupied the U.S. Capitol rotunda and many were arrested. These are only a few highlights of a battle still waged every day when people with disabilities, including those who use assistance dogs, are harassed at the ever more present security checkpoints, and denied use of public facilities, transportation and even neighborhood parks.

This broad and rich movement intersected with the early struggles of people with HIV/AIDS and impacted the political movement as well. Workers World Party's members with disabilities formed a caucus inside the Party, helping to educate as well as mobilize on disability issues. Wherever Workers World had influence, long before it was a usual occurrence at mainstream events, large rallies and meetings had an American Sign Language translator conveying the songs and speeches. Vans or buses for people with disabilities ensured everyone could make their statement on the issues at demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and express the unique and important demands of people with disabilities. □

Long live the spirit of Jonathan Jackson

By Stephen Millies

Jonathan Jackson was only 17 years old when he gave his life for oppressed people on Aug. 7, 1970, when he went to the San Rafael, Calif., courthouse to free his older brother George Jackson, along with Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette — the "Soledad Brothers."

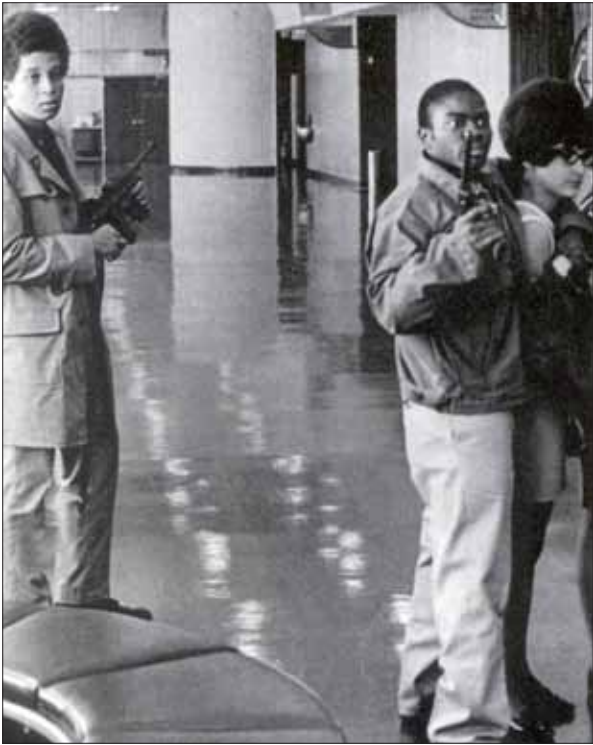
These three revolutionary inmates were charged with killing Soledad prison guard John Mills. Just before Mills was thrown over a third floor railing, a grand jury exonerated fellow officer O.G. Miller for shooting to death Black inmates Cleveland Edwards, Alvin Miller and W.L. Nolen on Jan. 13, 1970. African-American witnesses weren't allowed to testify at the whitewash hearing.

While no evidence linked the Soledad Brothers to the killing of Mills, California Governor and future U.S. President Ronald Reagan wanted to kill them in the state's gas chamber because they were revolutionaries.

George Jackson was internationally known for "Soledad Brother," a book-length collection of his letters from prison. "I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels and Mao when I entered prison and they redeemed me," he wrote.

A field marshal of the Black Panther Party, George Jackson had already spent a decade behind bars for a \$70 robbery. As an 18-year-old he was given a one-year-to-life sentence for being a passenger in a car whose driver allegedly robbed a gas station.

Jonathan Jackson went to Judge Harold Haley's courtroom armed with guns. San Quentin prisoner James McClain was



Jonathan Jackson, James McClain

there, defending himself against frame-up charges of assaulting a guard following the beating to death of Black inmate Fred Billingsley by prison officials. Fellow inmates Ruchell Cinque Magee and William Christmas were also in the courtroom as witnesses for McClain.

Like the enslaved Africans who joined John Brown at Harper's Ferry, these three San Quentin prisoners immediately joined Jonathan Jackson's freedom fight. Judge Haley, assistant prosecutor Gary Thomas and three jurors were made their prisoners.

"We are revolutionaries," they proclaimed. "We want the Soledad Brothers free by 12:30."

According to Black Panther Party vet-

eran Kiilu Nyasha, "The plan was to use the hostages to take over a radio station and broadcast the racist, murderous prison conditions and demand the immediate release of the Soledad Brothers." (San Francisco Bay View, Aug. 3, 2009)

But the capitalist class would rather have one of their judges killed than let Black prisoners go free. As Jonathan Jackson drove away in a van, San Quentin guards and court cops started firing. Jonathan Jackson, McClain and Christmas were killed, along with Judge Haley. Magee and Assistant District Attorney Thomas were wounded.

"Free Angela! Free Ruchell!"

The courageous action of these four Black heroes at the San Rafael courthouse shook the capitalist state from the White House to the local police precinct. "Psychologically the slave masters have been terrified by the boldness and innovative tactical conception," wrote Fred Goldstein in Workers World. "No court is safe anymore." (Aug. 20, 1970)

Scapegoats had to be found. Magee and Angela Davis, who had chaired the Soledad Brothers Defense Committee, were put on trial. Jonathan Jackson had been a bodyguard for Davis and three of the guns used at the San Rafael jailbreak were registered under her name. That was enough for Gov. Reagan to try to send Davis to the gas chamber as a "conspirator" responsible for Haley's death. In 1969 Reagan had gotten trustees at the University of California, Los Angeles, to fire the radical philosophy professor for being a member of the Communist Party.

For two months Davis eluded the FBI, which put the Black communist on its "10 most wanted" list. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover listed her as being "armed and dangerous" — an official invitation to shoot her on sight. President Nixon congratulated Hoover for the capture of Davis and labeled the Black woman "a terrorist."

From her prison cell Davis declared, "Long live the spirit of Jonathan Jackson!"

The Black community mobilized coast to coast to defend their sister. More than 200 "Free Angela Davis" defense committees were formed. Members of every Workers World Party branch joined and supported these committees.

People rallied in Cuba, the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) as well. On June 4, 1972, a jury acquitted Angela Davis of all charges.

Tried separately from Davis, Magee had adopted the name "Cinque" after the African leader of the 1839 slave revolt on the ship Amistad. The original Cinque was freed by a Connecticut court. Ruchell Cinque Magee, who also was part of a slave revolt, was convicted of kidnapping after murder charges were dismissed.

Judge Morton Colvin refused to adjourn the trial for a single day when Magee's mother died. Yet Colvin recessed the hearing for two days following former President Truman's death. At one point this bigot-in-robes kicked all 40 Black spectators out of the courtroom. (Jet, March 1, 1973)

An appeals court forced Colvin to allow former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who later founded the International Action Center, to help defend Cinque.

Continued on page 6

A vicious capitalist cycle

Profits soar as bosses cut workers

By Fred Goldstein

Corporate profits are rising, corporate cash is piling up, business has increased. But jobs are not coming back any time soon for the millions of unemployed.

This is the theme running through the big business media. It shows deep anxiety over the new stage of the capitalist economy and the way the “jobless recovery” is playing out.

While 30 million workers remain unemployed or underemployed, corporate profits have soared to an annual rate of \$1.2 trillion — higher than at the height of the bubble. Much of that \$1.2 trillion comes from laying off workers and getting more production out of those who remain.

“It turns out,” wrote Steven Pearlstein in the July 30 Washington Post, “that companies have found ways to produce as much as they ever did, but with fewer workers. As a result, over the past year, output for each hour worked rose more than 6 percent, even as average hourly earnings have risen less than 2 percent. The rest of those productivity gains have gone straight to the bottom line, creating a record stash of cash on corporate balance sheets.

“Some of the cash,” continued the article, “has been used to pay down debt or buy back stock. But so far the one thing businesses haven’t done is hire back full-time employees, preferring instead to contract for temporary workers or increase the hours of the workers they already have.”

Pearlstein then made a remarkably candid observation for the big business press: “The only surprise is that anyone is surprised by the lack of private-sector hiring. It is only in the world of Chamber of Commerce propaganda that businesses exist to create jobs. In the real world, businesses exist to create profits for shareholders, not jobs for workers. That’s why they call it capitalism, not job-ism.”

When a mouthpiece of big business such as the Washington Post allows such anti-capitalist commentary, it is a sign of deep worry about the permanence of this economic system.

The July 26 New York Times described the same trend in a piece entitled “U.S. Firms Wringing Huge Profits Out of Job Cuts.” The headline says it all.

The Times chose to focus on Harley-Davidson, whose sales have fallen for the last three years in a row. “But despite that drought,” observed the Times, “Harley’s profits are rising — soaring, in fact. Last week, Harley reported a \$71 million profit in the second quarter, more than triple what it earned a year ago.

“This seeming contradiction — falling sales and rising profits — is one reason

the mood on Wall Street is so much more buoyant than in households, where pessimism runs deep and joblessness shows few signs of easing.”

A future of economic contraction & layoffs

The Times points to the fact that Harley has laid off 2,000 workers — a fifth of its workforce — and is planning to terminate 1,400 to 1,600 more by the end of next year. Harley has warned union employees at its Milwaukee factory that it would move production elsewhere in the United States if they did not agree to more flexible work rules and tens of millions in cost-saving measures.

Harley’s evolution is part of a longer-term shift in U.S. manufacturing, said Rod Lache, an analyst with Deutsche Bank, in the Times article. “These companies have cracked the code of a successful industrial turnaround. They’re shrinking the business to a size that’s defensible, and growing off that lower base.”

On a larger scale, the Times article continues, Ford’s revenue is down \$20 billion since 2005. But this year, instead of a loss, it expects to announce a \$5 billion profit in large part because “Ford has shrunk its North American workforce by nearly 50 percent over the last five years.”

“When Alcoa reported a turnaround this month in profits and a 22 percent jump in revenue,” adds the Times, “its chief financial officer, Charles D. McLane Jr., assured investors that it was not eager to recall the 37,000 workers let go since late 2008. ‘We have a tight focus on spending as market activity increases, operating more effectively and minimizing rehires where possible,’ he said. ‘We’re not only holding headcount levels, but are also driving restructuring this quarter that will result in further reductions.’”

A spokesperson for Alcoa said the company “had to be resized to match the realities of the recession.”

Whole industries are making more profits than ever on lower sales. Lower sales reflect lower production. Lower production reflects lower employment. And this is a permanent condition arising out of the present economic crisis.

First-time unemployment claims & the ‘recovery’

Since the end of 2007 these bosses have laid off more than 8 million workers in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. That was on top of the 7 million already unemployed before the crisis hit. Millions of others have been put on short hours, have suffered mandatory furloughs, or have been forced to work at reduced wages with harsh conditions and speed-up.

It is estimated that 150,000 new jobs are needed each month just to hire young people who come of working age. Now many of these youth cannot get any connection to the job market and do not even appear in the statistics.

Most of the layoffs that have taken place are permanent. Jobs are not coming back, even though we are now officially in the fourth quarter of a “recovery.”

First-time jobless filings have remained in the range of at least 450,000 per month during the entire eight months of the “recovery.” This has been described as “eight months of going sideways.” The most recent first-time claims for unemployment went down by a four-week average of 4,500. That decline represents a drop of only 1 percent, which is both statistically and humanly irrelevant for the nearly half a million workers who did file.

What kind of “recovery” is it when official unemployment remains at 9.5 percent?

There is no mystery about the unemployment crisis. The capitalists caused it. And now these millionaires and billionaires are hanging on to their profits and their cash reserves for dear life rather than relieve the mass suffering they have caused.

Nonfinancial companies are sitting on \$1.8 trillion in cash reserves, roughly one-quarter more than at the beginning of the recession. Yet they won’t rehire full-time workers in any significant numbers, despite the desperate job crisis. People are losing their homes, living out of their cars, doubling and tripling up with relatives, losing their health insurance and their human dignity, while the moneybags who run the profit system find ways to cut more workers.

A Marxist approach to crisis

Marxists have both an analysis of the crisis and a strategy for fighting back.

From the standpoint of analysis, it is clear that capitalism itself is at an impasse. The system cannot start itself up again, and has reached an historical crisis point. All the technology, all the speed-up, the great rise in productivity — another name for a great increase in the rate of exploitation of the working class — has brought the contradictions of capitalism to a new level.

Workers to live under capitalism must have jobs. For workers to have jobs, production must constantly expand. For production to expand, there must be expanding markets so the capitalists can sell at a profit. But the bosses are boosting their profits by driving down wages, laying off workers permanently and cutting hours. In doing so, they destroy the buying power, the consumption of the workers.

The present crisis with its “jobless recovery” shows that capitalism has only

misery in store for the working class, and especially African-American, Latino/a, undocumented immigrants, youth, women and all other oppressed workers who suffer higher rates of unemployment and get lower wages. The capitalists have been putting in job-destroying technology for three decades until it has reached a turning point: The system is now so productive they have to shrink production in order to stay profitable.

This is the vicious capitalist cycle, which only gets worse as the system goes on.

Demand a new WPA-style jobs program

While that is a Marxist analysis of the situation, the Marxist fighting response is that the bosses are on a hiring strike. And the workers have to fight to get jobs any way they can. They must fight to re-open closed workplaces. They must fight to rehire laid-off workers. And they must establish that they have the right to a job. There is no other way for workers to live under capitalism — the right to a job reduces itself to the right to live.

The bosses have \$1.8 trillion in cash that they can use to start rehiring — if they are forced to do so by a mass mobilization of the working class and the communities around the country.

But in addition to these direct battles with the bosses, the capitalist government must be forced to give every worker who needs one a job at living wages with benefits. In the Depression of the 1930s, the Roosevelt administration, under pressure of mass demonstrations, was forced to launch the Works Progress Administration. It provided 8 million workers with jobs at prevailing wages.

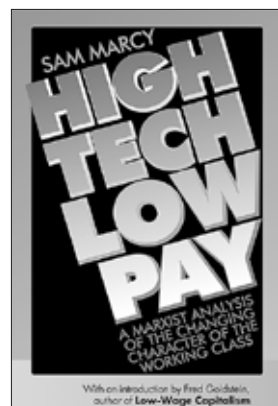
The question of jobs is becoming a political issue seized on by the right wing to attack undocumented workers and even the Obama administration. This campaign is intended to divide the working class and poison the atmosphere with racism in order to keep the workers from uniting against their real enemy: the bosses and bankers who are ruthlessly throwing them onto the unemployment lines and out of their homes.

The right-wing attack does not include the demand for a jobs program for all. But the workers’ movement, the union movement and all the mass organizations should come together with a practical program to take the trillions of dollars in the vaults of the banks and corporations, the hundreds of billions of dollars given to the Pentagon, and the trillions in tax breaks for the rich and use it to put workers back to work.

The Obama administration has given the banks and corporations many concessions and bailouts, but it is not responsible for the economic crisis. It is capitalism itself and the profit-seeking capitalist class that is responsible.

This tiny handful of billionaires owns and controls the economy and the vast wealth created by the working class. They run the global system of production for profit. The economy must ultimately be taken out of their hands and put in the hands of the workers so that production can be planned to meet the needs of the many, not the profits of the few.

Goldstein is author of the book “Low-Wage Capitalism,” a Marxist analysis of globalization and its effects on the U.S. working class. He has also written numerous articles and spoken on the present economic crisis. For further information visit www.lowwage-capitalism.com.



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LGBTQ migrant workers, Lady Gaga & Arizona boycott

By Imani Henry

On July 31, under the pressure of a national campaign calling for her to honor the boycott of Arizona, Lady Gaga, one of the biggest icons in pop music, met with local activists and used her Phoenix concert to speak out against SB1070.

In the past, Lady Gaga had willingly used her celebrity to promote social justice causes. Out as bisexual, she has spoken out for lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer rights at award shows, as well as donated concert proceeds to the people of Haiti after the Jan. 12 earthquake. But as publicity grew around the Rage Against the Machine's July 21 Los Angeles concert to benefit the Arizona boycott movement, Lady Gaga, along with bands like Kiss and the Stone Temple Pilots, were juxtaposed in the coverage as big name acts who weren't boycotting Arizona.

Unlike Kiss, a large percentage of Lady Gaga's fan base is young people of color, especially from the lesbian, gay, bi and trans communities. The question became: How could she honor the boycott of a corporation like BP, but not honor the boycott of the racist, anti-immigrant state of Arizona? Could the LGBTQ community afford to have an icon of LGBTQ equality hold a sold-out show in Phoenix, two days after SB1070 was scheduled to go into effect, without taking a stand against racism? No!

On July 24, an online petition campaign, "From Arizona to Lady Gaga — Honor the Boycott," was launched by LGBTQ activists in Phoenix as part of a

July 23-30 week of international solidarity with Arizona. Led by two gay men, Victor Medina, a Chicano activist with the group Puente Arizona, and Amelec Jaalam Diaz, a migrant student activist of the Arizona DREAM Act Coalition, the campaign also featured "Letters to Lady Gaga." These very personal and powerful letters described not only the racist impact of SB1070 but also the added oppression for LGBTQ people who had migrated to the U.S. from Mexico without documentation. The letters asked her to meet with LGBTQ migrant community members as part of her trip to Phoenix.

A frenzy of activism began. LGBTQ, immigrant rights and progressive movements circulated the letters and petition. The media were called, bloggers wrote and LGBTQ groups like GetEQUAL ran online ads. Several LGBTQ and AIDS groups came forward to help reach out to Lady Gaga's management team.

Lady Gaga didn't cancel her concert, but the message from her fans and the LGBTQ and progressive movements to honor the boycott had been heard loud and clear. On July 31, she met with Medina and Diaz, and got a crash course on migrant rights. She then used her concert as an anti-SB1070 platform, making her one of the biggest pop stars to date to come out against the racist law.

The people of Arizona fight back

This tremendous victory with Lady Gaga would not have been possible with only an online campaign. It was part of a



PHOTO: VICTOR MEDINA

Amelec Jaalam Diaz, Lady Gaga and Victor Medina

week of solidarity actions in the streets — from a banner drop from a crane in downtown Phoenix on July 28 to the marches, rallies and mass civil disobediences on July 29 all over Arizona and the country. Ultimately, the people in motion, like Medina, Diaz and other LGBTQ activists from Arizona to New York City, forced Lady Gaga to take a stand.

In fact, the night before the meet-and-greet with Lady Gaga, Medina, like the rest of the members of Puente, was at a police station demanding the freedom of their leader, Salvador Reza, who had been unjustly arrested for simply standing across the street observing a direct action.

In an interview on Aug. 1, Medina told Workers World, "The sheriff, Arpaio, is out of control. Before July 29th, there was

a raid every week. In the past three days there have been raids every day.

"Arpaio holds a press conference every day announcing the raids. People then live in fear of leaving their homes, driving in their cars with a cracked windshield, or even smoking a cigarette for fear of being pulled over."

Medina told Workers World about the plight of LGBTQ people who migrated to the U.S. for work: "We are dealing with gay men who are day laborers who no longer can stay in front of Home Depot. Lesbians who used to be able to get work in construction and trans women can't even get jobs, all living under the fear of raids and deportation."

On Aug. 5, Medina and Diaz will help lead another historic moment — the creation of the first ever LGBTQ migrant group in Phoenix. Called 3rd Space, the group will bravely hold a "Know Your Rights" forum. According to Medina, "We're not just starting a group. We want to start a revolution!" □

Houston support for DREAM activists

After 21 undocumented youth and DREAM Act supporters engaged in civil disobedience in Washington, D.C., on July 21, that same evening Texas students held a candlelight vigil at the Federal Building in Houston, demanding the passage of the DREAM Act this year. The DREAM Act is proposed legislation that would give youth who have lived in the U.S. since childhood a pathway to legal status by going to college or serving in the military. Students around the



country have stepped up actions this year to get the bill passed, including hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies, vigils and com-

munity forums. In Washington on July 21 they conducted sit-ins in the Hart Senate Building lobby, Sen. John McCain's office and in Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's office. At the Houston candlelight vigil, students came forward, one by one, and threw a coin into the "DREAM well" and stated their own dream for themselves and their families. The Houston vigil was called by Familias Inmigrantes y Estudiantes en la Lucha.

— Report and photo by Gloria Rubac

Martyred Houston Panther leader honored

Continued from page 3

thusiastically to the play.

John King, the only one of the Angola 3 who has been released from prison, was an honored guest at the play. The other two, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, have been in solitary confinement for more than 37 years for a crime they did not commit. (www.angola3.org)

Community rally, gravesite remembrance

The main event was a community rally at Emancipation Park, which is across the street from the first BPP headquarters. A highlight was the introduction of Hampton's son, Maasai, who was six months old when his father was gunned down. Maasai, who was on the commemoration's planning committee, thanked all the activists there for teaching him about his father's history. Hampton's sister and nieces were also introduced.

Emotions ran high as six of the Houston members of the PPII/BPP took the stage. Bobby Reed, Claude Frost, Sensei Benton, Loretta Freeman, Bunchy Crear and Freeman received a warm standing ovation.

A guest speaker was Kathleen Cleaver, the first woman member of the Black Panther Party Central Committee, who is currently a law professor at Emory University School of Law.

Panthers United for Revolutionary Education sent a special message of solidarity from Texas' notorious death row. It was read by Regina Guidry, a member of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.

Also attending the rally were former members of the John Brown Revolutionary League and the Mexican American Youth Organization. Hampton had organized Houston's Rainbow Coalition in 1970 with these two groups, and they held many joint protests and rallies.

Other events were a Strategies for Change Conference at Texas Southern University and a Panther Film Festival, organized by BPP historian and archivist Jennings. That was held at the SHAPE Community Center.

The final event took place on July 26, exactly 40 years after Hampton's murder. His comrades, family and support-

ers gathered at his gravesite to remember and speak about his contributions to the Panthers, to African-American history and to the revolutionary movement of the 1960s. Former Panther Geronimo ji Jaga sent a special message from Tanzania, which Benton read.

Dr. Charles E. Jones, founding chair of the Department of African-American Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta, presented his newly released booklet in honor of Hampton at the commemorative events. Its title is "Arm Yourself or Harm Yourself: People's Party II and the Black Panther Party in Houston, Texas."

Dr. Jones wrote, "[T]he perseverance, dedication and courage of the members are undisputable. They left a legacy of self-defense, multi-racial coalition politics, and community empowerment built in the face of rampant police repression. ... Most importantly, these young African-American men and women dared to challenge racial oppression and to struggle on behalf of black and other oppressed people."

Source: www.itsabouttimebpp.com

Long live the spirit of Jonathan Jackson

Continued from page 4

Jury foreman Bernard J. Soares stated in a 2001 affidavit that the jury actually voted to acquit Cinque of kidnapping for the purpose of extortion.

Ruchell Cinque Magee remains imprisoned today. Jailed for 47 years, he is the longest held political prisoner in the U.S. and possibly the world. As an accomplished jailhouse lawyer, Cinque has freed dozens of fellow inmates.

You can write to this heroic freedom fighter at Corcoran State Prison. The address is Ruchell Magee # A92051, 3A2-131 Box 3471, C.S.P. Corcoran, CA 93212

Black August

One year after his younger brother sacrificed his life, George Jackson was assassinated by prison guards on Aug. 21, 1971. George Jackson's murder sparked the Attica prison rebellion in which 29 prisoners were slaughtered by billionaire New York Gov., Nelson Rockefeller.

On March 27, 1972, the two remaining Soledad Brothers — Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette — were acquitted by a San Francisco jury.

"Courage in one hand, the machine gun in the other," was how George Jackson described his 17-year-old brother Jonathan.

Sources: "If They Come in The Morning" by Angela Davis and other political prisoners; "The morning breaks; the trial of Angela Davis" by Bettina Aptheker.

Protests coast to coast slam SB1070

By Kris Hamel

Demonstrations around the U.S. called for the overturn of Arizona's SB 1070 as the racist, anti-immigrant bill was scheduled to become law on July 29. Although a federal judge issued an injunction on July 28 that temporarily barred many components of the law from taking effect, activists rallied to demand its total overturn and for full rights for all immigrant workers. Many viewed the judge's decision as a victory won through struggle.

In **NEW YORK CITY** on July 29 close to 2,000 people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to protest SB 1070. On July 30 several groups held protests at Citi Field as the Arizona Diamondbacks played the New York Mets. Protesters demanded repeal of all of SB 1070 and that the 2011 Major League Baseball All-Star game not be played in Phoenix. Two young people ran across the field and are facing misdemeanor charges.

The May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights held a 2.5-mile march from 83rd Street, in the heart of the Queens immigrant community, to Citi Field. The coalition denounced the ongoing police harassment of day laborers and street vendors in the area. Organizers reported it was a huge success as people poured out of stores and homes to cheer the marchers on.

On the evening of July 28, pro-immigrant rights' activists responded to a call by Unión del Barrio, and demonstrated at the federal building in downtown **SAN DIEGO** in solidarity with the protests already underway in Arizona. Later at Chicano Park, activists boarded a bus provided by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council and headed for Phoenix for the July 29 protest.

In **CHICAGO** the Immigrant Youth Justice League organized a march with 300 participants to the Cook County Jail, where many immigrants are being held and put into deportation proceedings. Among the many speakers outside the jail was Armando Robles, president of United Electrical Workers Local 1110 and a leader in the Republic Windows and Doors occupation.

Protesters in **DETROIT** chanted, "Jobs not racism! Boycott Arizona!" and other slogans as they rallied July 29 at the downtown federal building. Standing in solidarity with those resisting SB 1070 in Arizona and other racist attacks against immigrants and the undocumented, about 150 protesters of numerous nationalities, including many youth, demanded an immediate repeal of SB 1070 and legalization and amnesty for all immigrants.

More than 500 union members representing 32 unions, organized by the **LOS ANGELES** County Federation of Labor,

traveled on 12 buses to join other labor and community organizations at a major demonstration in **PHOENIX**. Before the march, a rally was held at a church where a 103-day vigil had been taking place against SB 1070. In addition to labor, the rally speakers included clergy and politicians as well as community activists and victims of anti-immigrant raids. About 1,000 protesters took part in the action.

More than 60 people rallied at the Federal Building Plaza in **SYRACUSE, N.Y.**, under the banner "Syracuse Stands Up for Immigration Rights." Speakers denounced SB 1070 and "racial and ethnic profiling." The multinational crowd included undocumented immigrant workers.

Rachel Fuentes, from the Upstate Detention Task Force, read the anonymous testimony of an undocumented immigrant woman who was trying to escape domestic violence but could not ask for help because of anti-immigrant measures already in place. The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse and the Syracuse Peace Council organized the rally.

Dozens of people kicked off three days of protests in **PHILADELPHIA** on July 27 with a rally outside the Citizens Bank Park, where the Phillies were playing the Arizona Diamondbacks. The rally called attention to the contributions of more than 1,500 foreign-born players in professional baseball.

On July 28, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers brought their Florida Modern-Day Slavery Museum to Philadelphia to place in front of the Visitors Center across from the Liberty Bell. The exhibit examines the history and evolution of slavery in Florida's fields.

A "Welcome New Immigrants" rally was held at Welcome Park in downtown Philadelphia on July 29. The rally drew more than 100 protesters and called for pro-immigrant policies at the city, state and federal levels. A march ended at the U.S. Customs House, where a giant welcome mat was unrolled. New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia initiated the event.

Hundreds of people turned out in **SAN FRANCISCO** throughout the day on July 29 to demand legalization and full human rights for all immigrants. Two smaller rallies earlier in **OAKLAND, CALIF.**, culminated in a large street protest at 24th and Mission Streets, in the heart of the Latino/a community. Hundreds of immigrants gathered with handmade signs and banners to demand, "Stop the racist Arizona law SB 1070."

The Bay Area Organizing Committee Against SB 1070 called for the establish-



PHOTO: LAWRENCE REYES

Above, Los Angeles delegation prepares to leave for Phoenix protest. Left, Raleigh, N.C.



WW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

ment of sanctuary cities and an end to the Secure communities program which has led to human rights violations, deportations and increased raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The rally was an outpouring of the many immigrant communities comprising San Francisco. Latino/a families were joined by Chinese, Filipino and other immigrants, all opposed to SB 1070. Young organizers sold T-shirts decrying racial profiling and declaring, "I am a citizen of the planet Earth."

In **RALEIGH, N.C.**, hundreds of immigrant workers, youth and other progressive forces marched to the Wake County courthouse and jail, which participate in anti-immigrant 287(g) programs. Fierce young immigrant activists from the Umbrella Coalition in Durham and the N.C. Heroes Emerging Among Teens in Raleigh spoke to the crowd and led the chant, "No justice, no peace, no racist police!" Afterwards, the crowd marched to the State Capitol for a powerful rally.

The march was organized primarily by N.C. ICE Watch in partnership with Black Workers for Justice, the Father Charlie Mulholland Catholic Worker House, the N.C. DREAM Team, the N.C. Justice Center, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Pueblo Unido, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Student Action with Farmworkers and other community leaders.

State legislators have introduced a bill similar to SB 1070 and racial profiling con-

tinues to be a serious concern across North Carolina. Currently at least 29 county and local law enforcement agencies are participating in 287g or Secure Communities programs, which are partnerships between local law enforcement and ICE.

More than a dozen progressive leaders in **HOUSTON**, including representatives from Mexicanos en Acción, Democracia Ahora, Pax Christi, the Houston Peace and Justice Center, La Raza Justice Movement and League of United Latin American Citizens, gathered on the morning of July 29 to address the media. Each speaker explained why no part of SB 1070 should be law and vowed the struggle was not over just because a federal judge struck down some of its provisions.

Laura Boston of the Interfaith Workers Justice Center, who organized this event, said, "We have to keep the longer-arching vision in mind that these awful times of hate and discrimination will be remembered because of the struggle and because people stood up to defend their rights and won."

Hundreds of Houstonians gathered for an anti-SB 1070 rally sponsored by Houston Unido, where activists vowed to stand with the people of Arizona and to fight the proposed legislation that will be introduced into the Texas Legislature in January.

Other demonstrations occurred in **ATLANTA; MILWAUKEE; PORTLAND, ORE.; ST. PAUL, MINN.;** and other cities and towns throughout the country.

Rakhee Devasthali, Judy Greenspan, Teresa Gutierrez, Bob McCubbin, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac and Dante Strobino contributed to this article.

Resistance erupts in Arizona

Continued from page 1

Tucson, at Congress and Granada, where protests against SB1070 had been building each Friday for the past month, close to 500 people filled the intersection for most of the day, forcing traffic to be rerouted. At rush hour, activists blocked the streets with banners that read, "We Will Not Comply!" and "Stop All Racist Laws!" until police in riot gear forcibly removed them. Even after police gave an order to disperse, people remained in the downtown area, regrouping to continue chanting and protesting.

The struggle will not stop

In Phoenix, police and sheriff's deputies became more aggressive as actions continued. At an afternoon demonstra-

tion targeting Arpaio, two legal observers were snatched from the crowd by sheriff's deputies. One of the legal observers arrested was Sunita Patel of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Witnesses say she was deliberately targeted for arrest as she was taking down the names of those being arrested. In a statement released by the CCR, Center Director Bill Quigley said, "Arresting a young woman of color who is there as an attorney observer demonstrates how irresponsible and un-American the Arizona action is. I fear Arizona is starting to act like Mississippi in the civil rights days."

On June 30, activists from the Puente Movement in Phoenix blocked another of Arpaio's neighborhood sweeps at a Maricopa County Sheriff's Office command

post near the Lower Buckeye Jail. The 11 activists were arrested by MCSO deputies as they blocked the driveway to the command center. Then the deputies went across the street into a parking lot and arrested, without any cause, Salvador Reza, a leader of Puente, as he was getting into his car. Reza was held overnight at the Fourth Avenue Jail and released in the early morning, when the judge found that there was no probable cause for his arrest.

The protests and disruptive actions taken by activists in Arizona on the first day of SB1070's implementation are indicative of a new, more militant fighting spirit that has emerged here. The intense outrage that was unleashed by the signing of this racist law has galvanized people and propelled the movement forward.

People are finding ways to disrupt business as usual for the state and they are willing to stand up to the cops and go to jail if necessary to stop this racist law and its counterparts in the 287(g) and Secure Communities programs.

The first day of SB1070 was also the first day of the militant fightback by the progressive, anti-racist forces in Arizona. The Boycott Arizona! Campaign is still in effect, and is taking its toll on the state's big hotels and convention businesses. Activists are energized by the events of July 29 and are planning their next actions in this struggle to roll back the racist onslaught unleashed in Arizona, broadening their perspective to include not only SB1070, but 287(g), Secure Communities, and border militarization. □

From Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row

Selling out SHIRLEY SHERROD

Taken from a July 22 audio column at www.prisonradio.org. Go to www.millions4mumia.org to read about Abu-Jamal's legal case.

For a woman who spent a lifetime in the Civil Rights Movement and the struggle for the rights of rural farmers, the events of recent days may have taught her that the rights of federal workers — especially Black ones — don't count for much.

Shirley Sherrod, a 61-year-old Black grandmother and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture official, was targeted by right-wingers bent on using brief snippets of her speech to prove she was racist.

In a matter of hours, Mrs. Sherrod was suspended and then forced to hand in her resignation — immediately.

Initially, government officials defended the firing as an example of “zero tolerance” of racism. This is more than ironic for an agency that not only tolerated it but practiced it for generations, especially when it came to Black farmers.

It took videotapes of the full text of her speech to cause USDA heads to take a second look, but by that time the damage was done.

The first Black director of the USDA's Rural Development office in Georgia was axed with the acquiescence and approval of the nation's first Black president.

What Sherrod learned is that no one had her back.

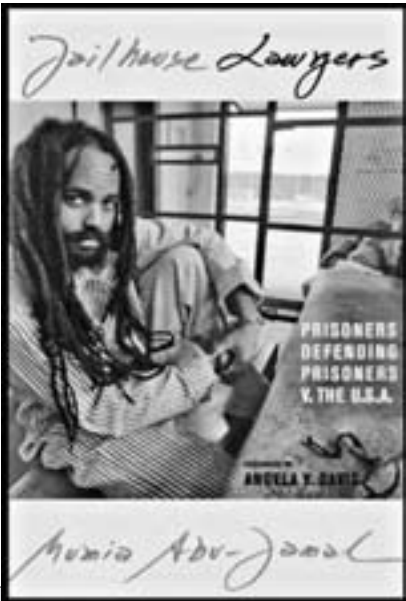
It was a powerful illustration of “the Beck Effect” (after Fox News commentator and nutsack Glenn Beck), or the power of right-wing media to make the White House dance to their tune, or perhaps more accurately, hop to their bark.

If this could happen to Sherrod, a former activist in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the daughter of an organizer slain by the Klan, a life-long organizer for farmers' rights, a federal official with the Ga. USDA — what about you?

In fact, it happened several months ago to a brilliant young environmentalist and lawyer.

Remember Van Jones? What chance do you have?

This is the face of “post-racialism” where Blacks are sacrificed on the bloody altar of Negrophobic Neanderthals.



MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S BOOK,
**JAILHOUSE LAWYERS:
PRISONERS DEFENDING
PRISONERS V. THE U.S.A.**

Available at Leftbooks.com

To fight racist SB 1070, capitalist crisis

Build a united, independent movement

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Workers and oppressed peoples in the U.S. are responding to the escalating racism and political repression that is taking place amid the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Even during an election year, where the corporate media are dominated by competition between candidates of the two ruling class parties — which do not in most cases address the underlying causes of the mounting social problems facing the majority of the population — various organizations and movements have come out into the streets to engage in demonstrations and civil disobedience.

On July 29 thousands across the country demonstrated against the enactment of Arizona's racial profiling law SB 1070. In Phoenix and throughout Arizona more than 500 people were arrested for defying police who attempted to suppress protests aimed at overturning this draconian statute.

In California's Bay Area, demonstrations took place which not only expressed solidarity with the immigrant communities in Arizona, but also opposed the so-called “Secure Communities” federal program, which identifies immigrants for criminal prosecution and deportation. According to government records, some 400,000 people have been fingered by the program and handed over to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Rev. Phil Lawson, founder of Black Alliance for Just Immigration, noted that “President Obama is deporting more people than President Bush ever did. Seventeen hundred a day. That's got to stop. It's destroying families. In Arizona, it's destroying churches, congregations.” (San Jose Mercury News, July 29)

Last year the Obama administration set a record number for deportations of immigrants with a reported total of 387,790 people. The numbers for 2010 are expected to surpass those of 2009.

The Secure Communities program provides for detainees at county jails to be fingerprinted and their records immediately sent to a federal immigration database. The July 29 Mercury News pointed out that “The program targets what the government calls criminal aliens, who are immigrants — legally or illegally in the country — who can be deported because of crimes they have committed.”

This same article notes: “Last year, 35 percent of those deported had a crime on their record. This year, about half of those deported were convicted of a crime.” Despite attempts by right-wing political forces and law-enforcement agencies to label the immigrant communities, both undocumented and documented as criminals, statistics indicate that the majority of those who are targeted for detention and deportation do not have outstanding criminal charges and convictions. Even with these criminal convictions, the inherent racist character of the U.S. legal system typically results in many more people of color being subjected to targeted prosecutions and disparate sentencing by the courts.

Deepening racism, class oppression

Even though the corporate media, the Obama administration and spokespeople for capitalist interests have continued to falsely claim that an economic recovery is underway, statistics indicate that joblessness, home foreclosures and cutbacks in public services and education are continu-



Detroit, July 29.

WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

ing. In addition, there is a widening gap in income and wealth between whites and people of color.

Although there has been unequal income and wealth between men and women as a whole in U.S. society, the character of national oppression coupled with the economic crisis has magnified the differences along racial lines. In a recent article Christine Bork writes, “The result of this racial segregation of poverty is stark — 29 percent of households headed by white women with children live in poverty compared to 43 percent of African-American women and 46 percent of Latina women.” (Huffington Post, July 30)

Bork points out, “Factors such as industry sector, wage growth, access to health care benefits, and even zip code contribute to a woman of color's ability to accumulate enough to support her family. Without critical wealth and/or asset-building opportunities, families of color are relegated to living paycheck to paycheck, edging one step closer to financial ruin when they encounter job loss or an illness.”

Such income and wealth inequalities require a struggle against gender, national and class oppression. These issues are not even addressed seriously by either the Democratic or Republican parties. Consequently, independent political action is needed based on a program designed to overturn inequalities based on gender, race and class origins.

Bork concludes her article by stating, “Wealth and poverty both accumulate over time, growing exponentially with each passing generation.” Even the Brookings Institute, Bork notes, said in a recent study that “white children are more likely to surpass their parents' income than black children at a similar point in the income distribution.”

This income difference based on race is compounded by the fact that “In the United States, the top 10 percent own approximately 76 percent of all wealth; under this structure, the children of wealth will continue building and accumulating it, while the children of those who are unable to accumulate wealth will likewise grow poorer.” (Huffington Post, July 30)

Upcoming mobilizations

The United Auto Workers and the Rainbow/Push Coalition issued a call for a demonstration in downtown Detroit on Aug. 28 to demand jobs, justice and peace.

The UAW states in a July 9 press release: “This campaign will call on our national leaders to 1. Rebuild America by enacting industrial and trade policies that will create jobs, encourage manufacturing in America and put workers first; and

2. Enforce the law regarding workers' rights, civil rights, industrial regulation and the creation of fair and just educational, economic, and health policies; and finally 3. End the ongoing wars in the Middle East and redirect the war budget to

rebuilding America.” (uaw.org)

Rainbow/Push Coalition says in relations to the Aug. 28 mobilization that “No group has suffered more from America's economic meltdown than working men and women. The auto industry was decimated and workers paid the price.” (rainbowpush.org)

The coalition also notes that “Poverty is on the rise. Home and church foreclosures continue to mount and student loan defaults are increasing. Cities are under siege. Public transportation services are cut, workers laid off, but fares go up. Teachers are laid off and programs are cut as education budgets are slashed.”

In Detroit the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice will work to build the Aug. 28 demonstration by stressing the urgency of both labor and the community to forge a working alliance aimed at advancing the struggle to win jobs, housing, quality education, workers' rights, an end to police terrorism and the acquisition of healthcare benefits for all.

The Detroit demonstration will build momentum for a national mobilization scheduled for Oct. 2 in Washington, D.C. The One Nation coalition, the main initiator, is made up of several organizations, including the National Council of La Raza, the Service Employees union, the NAACP, the AFL-CIO and the United States Student Association.

According to Paul Starr, a professor of public affairs at Princeton University and co-editor of American Prospect magazine, “There is no choice but for these groups to get together. The historical pattern is that voter turnout falls disproportionately among minorities and young people at these midterm elections, so they are fighting a historical trend.” (Washington Post, July 11)

These efforts made by leading labor and civil rights organizations reflect the growing pressure from their constituencies to address the concrete conditions faced by people in the United States. Yet it is important that grassroots organizations emphasize the need for independent political action and specific demands related to immigrant rights, an end to police brutality and political repression, and a real jobs program that will put the 34 million unemployed and underemployed back to work with decent wages and benefits.

The One Nation coalition should also endorse the Oct. 7 National Day of Action to Defend Education, which is a follow-up to the successful protests on March 4 that mobilized hundreds of thousands of students and educational workers.

The writer is the editor of Pan-African News Wire.

Interview with Iraqi author Haifa Zangana

Resistance regains strength in 2010

While both were attending an international conference in Asturias, Spain, this June, Iraqi author and activist Haifa Zangana granted an interview to Workers World managing editor John Catalinotto. Zangana's novels include "Women on a Journey," "Through Vast Halls of Memory" and "Keys to a City." She also wrote "City of Widows" about the occupation. Part 3 of 3.

JC: What are the roots of the Iraqi Resistance? How is this resistance developing now? Is it unifying? How is the fight against the U.S. occupiers continuing, as we get no news of U.S. casualties?

HZ: Across the country strands of resistance to occupation have developed, ranging from armed battalions to peaceful, political and communal acts of dissent, increasing in extent and intensity. Many women are a part of this movement, providing direct and indirect support.

Remember, armed resistance against occupation is a right under international law. And this resistance movement was born not only of ideological, religious and patriotic convictions, but also as a response to the reality of the brutal actions of this occupation and its administration.

Iraq became the symbol of the U.S. administration's failure to achieve the promised swift victory. The U.S. information machine covered up their failures by portraying the slowly mounting armed resistance as militias in neighborhoods fighting each other. Death squads became active in throwing scores of corpses daily in various neighborhoods and then blaming them on sectarian motives. Therefore, the "civil war" became the theme of "Operation Information."

The trajectory of armed resistance is of a rapidly rising number of daily attacks in tandem with the presence of U.S. troops.

The Brookings Institution Iraq Index has the numbers climbing from up to 50 attacks per day in the first half of 2005, then to about 170 in mid-2007. The main categories listed in the U.S. casualties are the IEDs, rocket attacks, car bombs, grenades and attacks on helicopters in addition to "other," which may mean direct firefights.

The U.S. responded by escalating its clandestine operations fanning sectarian and tribal conflicts as a means to weaken the resistance. Then there were changes in the U.S. policies, starting with the signing of 200 local ceasefire agreements, which ended in the Awakening Groups, with declarations of withdrawals, and secret approaches to some of the resistance groups.

The number of attacks started to decline since the U.S. Army increased its use of missile strikes by unmanned Predator drones, the military became confined to military bases. When they went on patrol, the U.S. troops were well protected by Iraqi military. Hence, fatalities among Iraqi military increased.

The Brookings numbers are down to about 40 attacks per day on average in 2008, about 15 per day in 2009. There is a rise lately with more attacks in Baghdad, Mosel and Diyala, while Anbar, Tammim, Salahuddin and Basra average two attacks per day. Brookings does not give details about all the provinces, but mortar attacks have been reported in all southern provinces as well.

The icasualties.org website gives official numbers of U.S. fatalities, which rose to 961 in 2007, then declined to 150 last year. This year the average fatalities among the U.S. military are about six per month. As for the physically wounded, the ratio remains about one death to about six or seven wounded; in total, 4,700 dead to



Haifa Zangana

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

over 31,000 wounded.

The figure's decline still shows that the Iraq War is continuous. Occupation always calls naturally for resistance, a principle accepted by international law and moral responsibility. The sectarian/ethnic politics do not change this basic fact.

As for attempts to unify the Resistance's factions, on June 1, 2009, 13 Iraqi resistance groups elected Dr. Harith al-Dari, secretary general of the Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq, as a political representative in any future negotiations with the occupation.

Asked about the plan the Resistance will pursue, al-Dari, in an interview conducted by Al-Shuruq Tunisian newspaper in June 2009, said: "Our plan is to continue to resist the occupation by any legitimate means possible as dictated by divine religions and the laws of man until

we liberate our country. The Resistance arose to liberate Iraq, to ensure the unity and integrity of Iraq as a homeland and as a people, to protect the identity of Iraq, its natural resources, and its international borders that the Occupation has squandered and exposed to dangers. Iraq belongs to all its citizens, all its components, and all its sects."

It is worth mentioning here that the various factions of the Resistance, though not totally united, have never been fighting each other. Their enemy has been and remains the occupation.

JC: How has your continuing activity opposing the occupation affected your life as a novelist? What do you see as your next steps?

HZ: I have not written any fiction, not one word, since the war and occupation in 2003. A sterile, dark silence extends its shadow over the imaginary. The cruel reality of occupation has turned writing fiction into a meaningless act. I feel I am surrounded by death, barbed-wire fences of double standards.

I miss literary writing. I miss words and the joy of living in the imaginary with my fictional characters. Sometimes, when not writing about the plight of Iraqis under occupation or attending the aza'a [memorial] of friends and relatives who have been killed, slaughtered, or gone missing in Iraq, I dream of writing a sequel to my last novel, "Women on a Journey."

The entire three-part interview is available at workers.org.

Belgrade protests in U.N. as

Int'l Court opens door to dismember Serbia

By John Catalinotto

The United Nations' International Court of Justice ruled that a 2008 declaration of separation by the parliament of Serbia's Kosovo province was legal under international law. Although the judges explained their July 22 decision on a narrow basis, it may still encourage recognition of the historically Serbian province's secession.

There are 192 countries in the U.N. General Assembly. Up to July 30 only 69, including the United States and a majority of European Union members, had recognized Kosovo, whose population is about 80 percent of Albanian ethnic origin.

On July 30, Serbia lodged a resolution in the U.N. General Assembly demanding a new set of talks on Kosovo's status. Despite the current Serbian government's desire to join the EU, on this issue of territorial integrity Serbia is confronting the EU imperialist states.

Although the EU and U.S. imperialists support this dismemberment of Serbia, they oppose general support for self-determination. A broader court decision could give backing, for example, to the liberation struggles in British-ruled Ireland, in the Basque country now ruled by Spain and France, and for the independence of Puerto Rico from the U.S. These are legitimate struggles of oppressed nations for liberation from imperialist powers.

Kosovo is "independent" in name only. This means it is separate from Serbia, but it is not politically or economically self-sufficient. Kosovo's government is an appendage of U.S. imperialism in the Balkans.

Kosovo is home to the massive Bondsteel U.S. military base, housing 10,000 troops. The province has been dependent

on the U.S. and West European imperialist states since U.S.-NATO forces waged an aggressive war in 1999 to destroy what was left of Yugoslavia.

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an independent country of 20 million people in 1989, before the collapse of the USSR and the East European socialist bloc. By December 1991, German imperialism, after annexing the German Democratic Republic, recognized the secession of Slovenia and Croatia, led by rightist parties, and supported secessionist groups in Bosnia. Since large Serb minorities lived in Croatia and Bosnia, civil war was inevitable.

U.S.-led NATO forces then intervened militarily in the Bosnian civil war against the Serb forces in 1995. In 1999, U.S.-led NATO forces supported the ultraright Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK in its initials in Albanian) against Yugoslavia, even though Washington had called the UCK "terrorist" a year earlier. The Pentagon carried out 79 days of bombing raids on Serbia, killing thousands of civilians and destroying much of the Serbian infrastructure and environment.

In the end, NATO aggression turned an independent Yugoslavia into a collection of ministates that are colonies of Western European and U.S. imperialism. The ultrarightist UCK transformed into the core of Kosovo's government. This gangster regime began to persecute the large Serb minority along with the smaller minorities of Jews, Roma and other peoples of Kosovo, many of whom fled to the rest of Serbia.

Catalinotto is editor of the book "Hidden Agenda: U.S./NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia."

Koreans in U.S. call for peace treaty

Two Korean groups in the United States — the pro-reunification, community-based, grassroots organization Nodutdol and the National Campaign to End the Korean War — held a joint cultural event in Washington, D.C., on July 25 to call for a peace treaty



between the U.S. and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, often referred to by the U.S. media as north Korea.

This action comes 60 years after the start of the devastating Korean War, a war that is actually still not over, since the open hostilities ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

On the same day that this interactive art installation, called "100 Bojagis for Peace," took place, U.S. imperialism and its puppets in south Korea began provocative war "games" to threaten socialist north Korea. Called "Invincible Spirit" by the imperialist military, the exercises are the largest ever conducted by the U.S. military. The Voice of America, speaking for the government, called them "unprecedented in scope."

In contrast to U.S. militarism, the focus of the art installation was bojagis, patchwork bags traditionally used by rural poor people as backpacks in which they carry their belongings. They are closely associated with the experience of refugees

during the war who were fleeing the U.S. bombing of their villages and towns. Several of the bojagis had MP3 players showing interviews with former refugees and U.S. soldiers speaking about their experiences during the war.

Members of Nodutdol also put on a Pungmul band performance. Pungmul is a drum band that has its roots in the collective-labor farming culture of poor peasants in Korea. It was also used as a form of social protest during the years of Japanese colonial occupation.

Later that evening, a program of spoken word performances and a film about Korean adoptees, "In the Case of Cha Jung-hee," was shown at the Justice Center. Organizations that helped make this powerful national action a success included DMZ-Hawaii, Ubuntu Works, Korean-American National Coordinating Council, Korea Policy Institute, the International Action Center, Vets for Peace and the AN-SWER Coalition.

— Report and photo by Eric Struch

‘Ethics’ violations What about Bush & Cheney?

One of the first things the Bush-Cheney administration did on taking office in 2001 was to set up a super-secret energy task force. Oil and gas company executives descended on the White House for hush-hush conclaves with Vice President Dick Cheney and other administration officials. The individuals and their companies were never named publicly. In fact, when environmental groups sued to find out the particulars of these meetings, the administration successfully defended its right to keep them secret, all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The rest is history. Iraq was pulverized and taken over by the Pentagon in a war and occupation that were planned in the early days of the administration and had nothing to do with 9/11. (See “Iraq war plans began day Bush took office” by Fred Goldstein, Workers World, Jan. 22, 2004.) The imperialist drive to dominate the oil-rich territory and waters of the region has spilled over into U.S. aggression in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia, constant threats against Iran, and total U.S. support for Israel’s attacks on the Palestinians.

Both Bush and Cheney owe their fortunes and their political careers to the energy companies. But they are not at all unique in U.S. capitalist politics. Since 1990, oil and gas companies and affiliated individuals have donated \$238.7 million to the campaign chests of candidates and political parties. (OpenSecrets.org) This is just what has been reported publicly and doesn’t include the backroom deals and insider trading that corporations engage in to reward their friends.

Cheney’s 2001 meetings with Big Oil also resulted in deregulation and lax oversight of oil drilling in the U.S. itself, which led directly to the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. (See “Dick Cheney’s Last Laugh,” Mother Jones, June 10.) The Washington Post of June 17 reported, “Nearly 30 members of the congressional committees overseeing oil and gas companies held personal assets in the industry totaling \$9 million to \$14.5 million late last year.”

On both these earth-shaking issues — war and environmental pollution — the U.S. Congress, under both Republican and Democratic leadership, rubber-stamped what the administration wanted. The result has been millions of lives shattered and an astronomical cost to the people of all the countries involved.

Yet not one of the U.S. officials and politicians involved has been held accountable for these crimes against humanity.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives both have “ethics” committees that are supposed to investigate misconduct by their members and recommend action. What could be so important that it would overshadow looking into these monumental crimes?

We now have the answer. The House ethics committee has announced it is investigating Charles Rangel, who represents Harlem, and Maxine Waters, whose district includes the Watts section of Los Angeles.

Both are said to be under investigation for corruption. Were they perhaps bought off by Big Oil to endorse the Iraq War? No. In fact, Rangel and Waters were among the very few in the House who spoke and voted against the 2002 resolution that authorized funds for the war.

They both represent districts where African Americans are concentrated, places where the anger of the people against racism and police repression has boiled over into rebellions — Harlem in 1964, Watts in 1965 and 1992.

Both have been re-elected many times to Congress, giving them seniority on several important committees.

So far, the two have been pilloried in the media, even before they had a chance to respond to alleged charges. Waters hadn’t even been informed of the investigation when the media started hounding her.

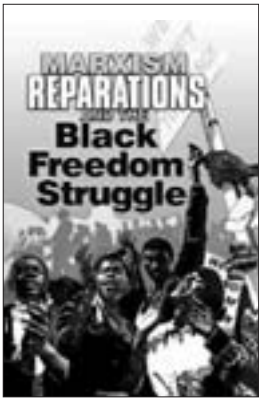
Whatever the outcome of these investigations, they need to be seen in the context of the continued racist oppression of the Black nation inside the United States. Black people have suffered ever since being brought here in chains and have made gains only through struggle — from the early antislavery rebellions to the Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Any improvement in their economic situation is being torn away in this prolonged depression, which is hitting African Americans extra hard by eliminating jobs in industry and public services that have been the mainstay for Black women and men. The utter devastation in cities like Detroit attests to this process.

When Barack Obama was elected president, there was joy and hope that this represented a political advance that would also help counter the economic regression, which had already begun. His program promised a bridge over the racial divide that exists in the U.S. more than almost any other country.

But this divide is not based just on attitudes and ignorance. It comes from the entrenched privileges enjoyed by the same ruling class that has billions of dollars to throw to its political friends. While this wealth comes from the exploitation of the labor of all workers, the bosses get even bigger dividends when they can pay workers of color half or two-thirds the wages of whites.

Obama — beholden as he is to the Democratic Party, which has encircled him with advisors and functionaries who made their way up the political ladder as lawyers, financial analysts and other servants of the wealthy — cannot take on this corporate establishment. Republicans and other assorted right-wingers see the resulting disillusionment among workers in general, on everything from the bank bailouts to the government’s failure to provide jobs, as an opportunity to push their racist agenda and strip oppressed communities of anything but token representation.

Flipping reality on its head, the media turn Black representatives like Rangel and Waters into symbols of political corruption while applauding a political system that dances to Wall Street’s tune every time. It’s time to say no and scrap the whole rotten system. □



MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead: Racism, National Oppression and Self-Determination • Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery • Black Youth: Repression and Resistance • The Struggle for Socialism Is Key • Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights and Global Justice! • Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping and Segregation • Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior • Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion • Racism and Poverty in the Delta • Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions

Available at Leftbooks.com and bookstores around the country

Even CIA statistics show Socialist Cuba stands tall

By Caleb Maupin

The Central Intelligence Agency, a ruthless enforcer of Wall Street’s drive for profits, publishes “The World Factbook.” It gives updated statistics for every country, some of which measure quality of life and societal health, such as life expectancy, infant mortality, literacy, unemployment and industrial production. In this series, Workers World examines some surprising conclusions, all using the CIA’s own statistics. Even though these statistics often understate gains compared to United Nations figures, they can’t help but show that countries benefit by breaking with imperialism.

In Latin America, the CIA’s “World Factbook” confirms that socialism stands triumphant. The island nation of Cuba, having begun constructing socialism after the 1959 revolution, stands above all other countries in terms of quality of life.

The infant mortality rate is the count of children per 1,000 live births who die before reaching one year of age. Not a single country in Latin America has a lower infant mortality rate than socialist Cuba, which is lower even than that of the wealthy United States. This is a testament both to the Cuban health care system, which is publicly operated and controlled by working people and their organizations, and Cuba’s attention to public health.

The educational system in Cuba, like the vast majority of the economy, is prioritized by the government and subject to popular, democratic control. As a result,

Cuba stands far above the rest of Latin America in literacy, with 99.8 percent considered literate, even slightly higher than the U.S.’s 99.0 percent.

Compare this to Honduras, where a repressive military dictatorship was recently installed in a coup d’état backed by Washington. Literacy in free-market, U.S.-dominated Honduras is 80 percent.

The life expectancy of Cubans is above every other country in South and Central America, and much higher than in the nearby Dominican Republic. In nearby Guatemala, where U.S.-backed paramilitaries have brutally put down all attempts to build a world free of capitalism, the life expectancy is only 70.59 years, compared to socialist Cuba’s 77.64 years.

Amidst the world economic crisis, Cuba’s rate of industrial production has dropped by only 1 percent, according to the Factbook. In the United States, production fell by 5.5 percent, and in the Britain, 9.8 percent.

This is probably due to the fact that the Cuban economy is not dominated by Western markets, but planned according to human need. As a result, an economic crisis in the West did not force the Cuban workers to suffer at the hands of Wall Street.

The statistics confirm what Karl Marx and countless others after him have said numerous times: that without the chaos of the capitalist market, which he dubbed the “anarchy of production,” a planned economy can better serve the people and provide for a good quality of life.

Next: Western domination vs. national liberation in Africa.

‘U.S. out of the Philippines!’



While the newly elected president of the Philippines, Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, was delivering his State of the Nation address on July 26, a spirited group of demonstrators from BAYAN-USA were demonstrating outside the Philippine Consulate nearly 8,000 miles away in San Francisco. Since President Aquino was elected into office, at least five progressives, including two teachers, have been killed by his regime.

According to protest organizers, the U.S. spends more than \$30 million a year to bolster the government in the Philippines. U.S. troops and advisors are stationed there to support the old and new Aquino regimes. According to Human Rights Watch, the Philippine military, police and paramilitary units have committed more than 1,200 killings, 203 abductions and 1,010 acts of torture against civilians since 2001. It is well known that the government’s death squads are equipped and trained by U.S. military advisors.

At the July 26 protest, BAYAN and other progressive Filipino organizations presented their “State of the Nation” address, which included key demands: 1) Freedom from colonial oppression — including U.S. troops and advisors out of the Philippines! 2) No more human rights violations; 3) Stop the death

squads; and 4) Filipino workers need real jobs — workers’ rights for all!

Bernadette Herrera of the Filipino Community Samaka Center gave the People’s State of the Union address. She talked about the large number of Filipino people who have fled to the U.S., many of whom are undocumented and facing daily discrimination. She pointed out that due to the deteriorating political and economic situation at home, more than 3,800 are leaving daily for the U.S.

Jessica from the League of Filipino Students at San Francisco State University directed her statement to the newly elected President Aquino. “We, the youth and members of other sectors, engage President Aquino to reverse the nine years of education crisis implemented by the corrupt Arroyo government,” Jessica said. She called upon the new leader to end the human rights violations and to increase wages of Filipino workers and carry out “genuine agrarian reform.”

A skit was performed re-enacting the killings of five Filipino activists since the July 1 election of Aquino III. Standing boldly in front of the doors of the Philippine Consulate, the speakers expressed their support and solidarity to those fighting for justice and human rights within the Philippines.

— Report and photo by Judy Greenspan

Divide and conquer?

Washington tries to pit Colombia against Venezuela

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Using the same old pretext of fighting drug trafficking and terrorism, Washington is pitting one Latin American country against another in an attempt to regain its former uncontested dominance of the region. This time, as several times before, it is using Colombia against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Colombian President Álvaro Uribe, through his Organization of American States ambassador and close collaborator Luis Hoyos, accused Venezuela on July 22 of harboring in its territory members and encampments of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

Responding to Uribe's latest aggression, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez broke relations with Colombia. Days before, Chávez had accused Colombia of violating Venezuelan airspace in the border region. Colombia had previously provoked Venezuela with paramilitary and army infiltration through the shared border.

Chávez called an emergency meeting of the Unión de Naciones Suramericanas to discuss this conflict and to propose a regional peace plan. Most Latin American countries value UNASUR for allowing them to settle regional conflicts without U.S. interference. The Colombian regime prefers the Organization of American States precisely because it includes its U.S. master. Therefore the UNASUR meeting held in Quito, Ecuador, July 29 was fruitless.

Why now?

President Uribe leaves office Aug. 7 when newly elected Jose Manuel Santos, also an ultra-rightist, will replace him in the Nariño presidential palace. There has been a great deal of speculation regarding the timing of this accusation against Venezuela. Regardless of Uribe's personal reasons, his accusation continues, in a more hostile way, the campaign to discredit Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution. Santos has made some weak statements implying he wants to improve relations with Venezuela.

Venezuela is preparing for its Sept. 29 regional elections. Both the Colombian and U.S. regimes are supporting the cam-

paign to help destabilize Venezuela by pulling the masses' support away from Chávez.

Santos needs to improve the country's economy, particularly in the region near the 1,400-mile Colombia-Venezuela border, whose economy has suffered from the sour relations. Venezuela used to be the second market for Colombian exports before diplomatic relations deteriorated over the years.

Who is Santos?

But Santos' policies just continue Uribe's doctrine, albeit with a mellower tone. Unlike Uribe, Santos himself is part of the elite Colombian oligarchy. His family owns the main national daily newspaper, El Tiempo. Santos was Uribe's defense minister and thus responsible for the criminal bombing in Ecuador on March 1, 2008, which killed FARC leader Raul Reyes and other FARC members, plus three Mexican students.

Santos was also responsible for the "false positives," that is, youths killed and later falsely presented as FARC guerrillas. Trained in U.S. and British universities, Santos was instrumental in Uribe's election campaign. He also promoted the deadly "Democratic Security."

Santos also used the services of the U.S.-based The Rendon Group, which provides public relations and strategic planning, to promote Plan Colombia. TRG has a division called Irregular Warfare Support that "assists our government and military clients in developing new approaches to countering and eroding an adversary's power, influence and will." (www.rendon.com)

Colombia's deadly recent history

The same day Hoyos angrily charged Venezuela with supporting the guerrillas, a public hearing was taking place in Colombia revealing the existence of the largest common grave in recent history in all of Latin America. An international delegation of unionists, British and European parliament members, and other representatives from Spain and the U.S., announced the gruesome discovery of 2,000 bodies in a grave in the small town of La Macarena, just 125 miles south of Bogotá, the capital.

The bodies are presumably those of the false positives, confirming the accusations made by peasants and other poor people from the area. These include the Mothers of Soacha, a group of women who accuse the Colombian army of killing their sons after offering them jobs but later disappearing them throughout 2007-2008.

Under Plan Colombia, U.S. ally Uribe was responsible for an increase in assassinations and repression against Colombian unionists, activists and others. A recent report by the U.S. Fellowship of Reconciliation and the U.S. Office on Colombia revealed a relationship between extrajudicial executions of civilians and U.S. military funding:

"The study reviewed data on more than 3,000 extrajudicial executions reportedly committed by the armed forces in Colombia since 2002 and lists of more than 500 military units assisted by the United States since 2000.

"We found that for many military units, reports of extrajudicial executions increased during and after the highest levels of U.S. assistance," according to John Lindsay-Poland, lead author of the study. (Inter Press Service, July 30)

U.S. militarization of the region

Plan Colombia was launched with the pretext of combating drug trafficking, as were the seven new military bases that

the Pentagon has access to in Colombia. But the above revelations, known to the Colombian people for years but now confirmed by a U.S.-based organization, expose the lie behind the militarization of the region, which has been steadily increasing over the last few years.

Besides promoting Plan Colombia, Washington has ordered the Fourth Fleet in regional waters, including rivers. It has 11 military bases in Panama; Mexico and Haiti have been militarized; there are military bases in Aruba and Curacao (close to Venezuela); and a second U.S. base has been established in Honduras.

And now Costa Rica, a country long regarded for its culture of peace, has bowed to Washington's request to deploy 46 U.S. Navy warships, 200 helicopters and 7,000 Marines.

The military coup that Washington orchestrated in Honduras was a warning to the other member nations of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of America (ALBA).

The U.S. effort to encircle Venezuela militarily is Washington's neoliberal response to the yearning for peace, equality, and social and economic justice of the diverse peoples in the whole continent. It is a war against the ALBA countries, particularly against Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador.

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Lolita Lebrón, PRESENTE!

Due to a long-standing cardiopulmonary ailment, revered Puerto Rican independence fighter Lolita Lebrón died on the morning of Aug. 1. She was 90 years old. On July 25, the 212th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Puerto Rico, while in a hospital bed, Lolita sent a message to the youth in Puerto Rico: "Young people have to get up at 6 a.m. every day with the national flag in their hands to fight for the independence of Puerto Rico."

An obituary will appear in an upcoming issue of Workers World/Mundo Obrero.

— **Report and photo**
by Berta Joubert-Ceci



Cuban Five must be freed

Gerardo Hernández tortured by U.S. govt

By Cheryl LaBash

Bulletin: On the morning of Aug. 3, Gerardo Hernández was freed from "the hole" due to mass pressure — individual, diplomatic and legal. He has been returned to his former incarceration status. It is time for the U.S. government to free the Cuban Five and send them home.

A global outcry is demanding that the U.S. government end the new torturous conditions imposed on Gerardo Hernández. On July 21, prison officials transferred Hernández, one of the anti-terrorist political prisoners known as the Cuban Five, to a 3-foot-by-7-foot solitary cell, known as "the hole." Prison authorities force him and another prisoner to share this space.

With outdoor summer temperatures reaching more than 100 degrees, the cell temperature is a sweltering 95 degrees; there is only a small amount of ventilation near the ceiling. Hernández is not allowed to shower and is taken outdoors for an hour in a cage every other day.

This is only the latest injustice in 12 years of injustice being perpetrated on each of the Cuban Five, which includes barring all visits from Adriana Pérez, Hernández's spouse, and Olga Salanueva, René González's spouse. These are violations of international human rights.

Alicia Jrapko from the U.S. office of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five told Workers World: "Gerardo Hernández has been thrown in the hole for no infraction of the rules of the prison he is in. The reason for this punishment is because he is Cuban and he has stood up against terrorism. It is no coincidence that every time an appeal for Gerardo comes up he finds himself in the hole.

"Gerardo remains strong," Jrapko stressed, "but he needs our solidarity and action more than ever before. For those of us in the movement in solidarity with Cuba, Gerardo's terrible situation offers us a great opening to intervene in the struggle for the freedom of the Cuban Five. Could there be a greater exposure of

the phony U.S. war on terrorism than the case of Gerardo, a fighter against terrorism now being subjected to torture in 'the hole' of the high security penitentiary in Victorville, Calif.?"

Hernández was sentenced to two life sentences plus 15 years. Although the punitively imposed life sentences for Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero were reduced to long prison terms on appeal, Hernández was excluded from that decision because he has a second life sentence. Although the U.S. prosecution itself proclaimed there was no evidence against him, Hernández was convicted of orchestrating the shoot-down of an insidious Brothers to the Rescue overflight of Cuban territory on Feb. 24, 1996, which resulted in four deaths.

On Aug. 9, 2005, a unanimous three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the Cuban Five's convictions and ordered a new trial. They said that the convictions in the Miami trial were

biased and "a perfect storm of prejudice."

Although that decision was overruled, the court of world opinion from Nobel laureates to parliaments to labor unions are demanding that these five political prisoners — Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and René González, who have been held in U.S. jails since 1998 — be returned to their families and comrades in Cuba.

Increasing speculation is being reported, including in a televised statement by Fidel Castro, former Cuban president and revolutionary theorist, that the Cuban Five will be returning home before December. By redoubling the campaign to publicize the facts of this case and building even greater support for the demand to free them, the progressive community can help the process.

For updates, see www.thecuban5.org, www.antiterroristas.cu, or www.freethefive.org.



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, René González Sehwerert, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort.

Movimiento dice ‘NO’ a la SB 1070 y a las ‘Comunidades Seguras’ de Washington

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

A pesar del continuo ataque contra los/as trabajadores/as inmigrantes, la resistencia y la oposición siguen aumentando en los Estados Unidos, no sólo contra el proyecto de ley 1070 del Senado de Arizona, sino también contra toda la campaña conducente a penalizar y llevar a los/as trabajadores/as nacidos/as fuera de este país a la clandestinidad.

Sólo en el mes de julio, hubo no una, sino muchas acciones nacionales en Washington, D.C. Organizadas por distintos sectores del movimiento, incluían Arizona pero también se centraban en otras cuestiones de inmigración. Estas acciones incluyeron desobediencia civil militante por estudiantes indocumentados/as en apoyo a la ley DREAM, quienes con audacia corriendo el riesgo de deportación, llevaron a cabo acciones directamente en el centro del poder en este país.

Días nacionales de acción en solidaridad con el pueblo de Arizona y en contra de la SB 1070 tuvieron lugar en ciudades por todo el país el 29 y 30 de julio.

El peligro existe, sin embargo, de que toda la atención esté centrada en la SB 1070 y se haga caso omiso de otras medidas — quizás más peligrosas, como las “Comunidades Seguras” del Presidente Barack Obama. Y la SB 1070 no debe marginar la condena al plan sobre inmigración del senador Charles Schumer.

A Washington claramente le ha faltado la voluntad política para satisfacer las demandas del movimiento por los derechos de los/as inmigrantes. En vez de conceder la merecida legalización y una legislación integral sobre inmigración, la Casa Blanca y el Congreso deliberadamente entregaron la política de inmigración a los estados. La política fragmentaria de inmigración del Congreso allanó el camino para la SB 1070 de Arizona.

La SB 1070 tiene lugar a raíz del “efecto embudo”, donde la militarización de las 2.000 millas de la frontera sur de los Estados Unidos por el Presidente Bill Clinton y sus sucesores, forzó a los/as migrantes a cruzar a través no sólo de una de las áreas más calientes del sudoeste, sino también una de las más conservadoras. Las políticas de los EEUU obligaron a los/as migrantes a cruzar al área del odiado alguacil, el racista y neofascista Joe Arpaio.

Sin embargo, mientras los ataques continúan en Arizona y en todo el país, el movimiento enérgicamente demuestra la realidad del adagio “la represión produce resistencia”. Este estado de indignación y nivel organizativo bien podrían ser un buen augurio para el Primero de Mayo de 2011.

No sólo en Arizona

Después del 2006 — y de las manifestaciones masivas que tuvieron lugar en todo el país por los derechos de los/as inmigrantes — las administraciones de Bush y Obama impusieron políticas sobre la inmigración que iban en contra de las demandas del movimiento.

La política de inmigración fue dejada a los estados y a las autoridades policiales

locales a través de un programa federal llamado 287(g). Este programa reclutó a las autoridades locales como agentes federales de inmigración, dándoles la libertad de perseguir a los/as inmigrantes y a los/as trabajadores/as de color.

Un editorial del New York Times señala que “un nuevo informe del inspector general ... pinta un retrato de las agencias de 287(g) como un grupo disímil de diputados que no saben español, que no saben ni les importan los peligros de los perfiles raciales y que operan fuera del control de la agencia federal para la cual se supone que trabajen”. El informe advierte que la 287(g) sienta las bases para violaciones de los derechos civiles. (8 de abril)

Otra política aún más ominosa se está aplicando calladamente en ciudades de todo el país.

En abril y julio, la revista CounterPunch publicó dos artículos informativos: “Por qué el programa de Obama ‘Comunidades Seguras’ puede ser más peligroso que el de Arizona” por Stewart J. Lawrence y “No es sólo Arizona” por Bill Quigley.

Los artículos relatan correctamente el peligro de lo que Lawrence describe como “uno de los programas sobre inmigración más importantes y secretos de la administración Obama”.

Lawrence escribe, “conocido eufemísticamente como ‘Comunidades Seguras’, el programa se ve y suena inocuo y hasta beneficioso”. Pero está muy lejos de eso.

Él documenta cómo el programa está dirigido hacia “infractores de delitos menores, incluyendo a gente que puede ser culpable de algo como ignorar una señal de alto o manejar con una luz trasera rota”. Muchas de estas personas son inocentes. “Pero”, escribe Lawrence, “de todos modos están siendo detenidos/as y procesados/as para ser deportados/as”.

El programa comenzó en Carolina del Norte y Texas en octubre de 2008. Ahora, más de 450 jurisdicciones, por lo menos en 24 estados, están trabajando con el Departamento de Seguridad de la Patria para implementar el programa. Lawrence señala que es más de seis veces el número de jurisdicciones que trabajan bajo la 287(g).

Lawrence advierte que el presidente Obama está tratando de acelerar la votación para el programa de Comunidades Seguras. “Para el 2013, en el marco del plan de Obama, todas las 3.100 cárceles de la nación en los 50 estados estarán programadas para tener funcionando la base de datos de Comunidades Seguras”.

Quigley ilustra la aplicación insidiosa y desgarradora del programa de Comunidades Seguras con el caso de Florinda Lorenzo-Desimilian.

Escribe: “Lorenzo-Desimilian, una mujer casada de 26 años de edad, madre de tres hijos ... fue detenida en su casa [en Maryland] por la policía local por el delito menor de vender tarjetas telefónicas de \$2 en su apartamento sin tener licencia. ...

“La policía local le envió copias al FBI que a su vez notificó [a la Agencia de Ejecución de Inmigración y Aduanas de EEUU o ICE por las siglas en inglés]

que ella se había quedado después de que su visa de trabajo había expirado. A pesar de que sus tres hijos son ciudadanos estadounidenses, el ICE la mantuvo en prisión durante dos días y ahora está tratando de deportarla”.

Comunidades Seguras, él escribe, está “realmente coordinando una red que recoge y deporta a decenas de miles de inmigrantes, como la Sra. Lorenzo-Desimilian, que no son peligro para la seguridad de nadie”.

Quigley añade, “El ICE dice que este programa ‘contribuye a la seguridad pública mediante el fortalecimiento de los esfuerzos para identificar y suprimir a los extranjeros criminales más peligrosos de los Estados Unidos’. Sin embargo, el ICE no está realmente dirigiéndose a los delincuentes extranjeros condenados, a los extranjeros peligrosos, o incluso a los extranjeros violentos. Está dirigido a todos/as”.

Para obtener más información sobre Comunidades Seguras visite www.uncoverthetruth.org.

Otros ejemplos de la desgarradora devastación de las vidas de los/as inmigrantes son leyes como la de Fremont, Nebraska. En medio de campañas con carteles que dicen: “Alto a la invasión”, el consejo municipal aprobó una ley que prohíbe el alquiler de viviendas a personas sin documentos.

La semana del 12 de julio un trabajador del gobierno del estado de Utah publicó una lista con los nombres de cerca de 1.500 inmigrantes con su estatus migratorio, dirección y fecha de nacimiento a los medios de comunicación! Algunos de los nombres eran de mujeres que habían dado a luz recientemente o estaban embarazadas. Esto equivale a un reinado de terror al estilo nazi.

La guerra contra inmigrantes es una guerra contra todos/as los/as trabajadores/as

Las políticas estatales sobre inmigración, la retórica y la histeria derechista, combinadas con la política de la administración de Obama, significan una guerra contra los/as inmigrantes.

El Washington Post reportó el 26 de julio que una cifra récord de trabajadores/as indocumentados/as han sido o serán deportados/as. Dijo que la administración de Obama espera deportar aproximadamente 400.000 trabajadores/as en este año fiscal — “casi 10 por ciento más del número total en 2008 durante la administración de Bush y 25 por ciento más de los/as que fueron deportados/as en 2007”.

Una de las formas principales como han ocurrido estas deportaciones merece una amplia campaña promulgada por cada sindicato de este país.

Escribe el Post: “La administración de Obama ha estado dejando de usar redadas en los lugares y ahora se concentra en los empleadores. Solamente 765 trabajadores/as indocumentados/as han sido detenidos/as en sus lugares de empleo este año fiscal, comparado con 5.100 en 2008, según las cifras del Departamento de Seguridad de la Patria.

“En su lugar, los oficiales han aumentado la auditoría del empleador, investigando la documentación de los/as trabajadores/as de 2.875 compañías sospechosas de emplear a trabajadores/as ilegales y poniéndoles \$6.4 millones en multas”.

Esta política, llamada “deportaciones de terciopelo” por algunas personas y “redadas silenciosas” por otras, es una respuesta a la crisis económica que está afectando al mundo. Si los sindicatos no responden a estas deportaciones, las leyes de 287(g) y Comunidades Seguras no solamente devastarán las comunidades inmigrantes, sino que continuarán socavando las campañas sindicales y las campañas para subir los sueldos. Además, agravará las tensiones y el racismo en vez de promulgar solidaridad y unidad — las medidas principales para ganar las demandas de los/as trabajadores/as.

Detener la 287(g) y Comunidades Seguras debe ser una de las demandas principales de la Marcha por empleos en Washington del 2 de octubre que está siendo organizada por sectores del movimiento sindical y la comunidad negra. El movimiento para los derechos de los/as inmigrantes también debe movilizarse para esta manifestación.

Conectándose al movimiento contra la guerra

Una conferencia importante contra la guerra tuvo lugar en Albany, NY del 23 a 25 de julio. La lucha de inmigrantes jugó un papel significativo. El construir estas alianzas es clave para construir el movimiento anti guerra tanto como para avanzar la lucha de los derechos de inmigrantes.

La política de inmigración es claramente una cuestión anti-guerra, como se puede ver por el uso de aviones sin pilotos teledirigidos Predator B — los mismos aviones usados por la CIA en el Oriente Medio — que ahora están patrullando la frontera estadounidense/mexicana. La militarización de la frontera es un acto de guerra, no solamente contra el pueblo al sur de la frontera sino contra toda persona con conciencia.

La conferencia en Albany votó por tener acciones contra la guerra en la primavera el 9 de abril en vez de más tarde en abril porque de lo contrario, hubiera presentado un problema el suceder más cercano al Primero de Mayo. Esta solidaridad y coordinación por varios sectores del movimiento es un tremendo ejemplo de la especie de unidad que se necesita urgentemente para hacer frente a todos los ataques contra los/as trabajadores/as y oprimidos/as del mundo.

Mientras las acciones del otoño y primavera van llenando el calendario, quizás un crescendo en el movimiento va a llevar al punto culminante del Primero de Mayo 2011 cuando todos los sectores — no solamente el movimiento de inmigrantes, sino los sindicatos, el anti-guerra y otros — marchen juntos en una magnífica muestra de unidad de clase.

En Nueva York, el grito será: ¿Dónde el Primero de Mayo? ¡En Union Square! □